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ABSTRACT

This book examines embedded support in course material. The focus is on self-study and associated concepts such as independent learning, distance education, and open education, and the general context is adult and higher education. The seven chapters cover: (1) general introductory material, including a description of the future, distance education and open learning, conventional education, the "Big Bang" in distance education, and challenges of distance education; (2) embedded support, including embedded support devices (ESDs), a theoretical model, and the impact of individual characteristics; (3) research methods, including methods for research in relation to ESDs, opting for a research approach, and a preview of experimental research on ESDs; (4) ESDs in printed learning environments, including research with interviews, research with questionnaires, effect research with different course versions, and eye movement registration; (5) ESDs in electronic learning environments, including research design and results of a collaborative study between the Open University of the Netherlands and the University of Gent (Belgium); (6) assessment and feedback of ESDs, including research design and results of a study of independent learning at the Open University of the Netherlands; and (7) conclusions, discussion, and implications of research findings. Summaries in English and Dutch are included. (Contains 424 references.) (AEF)

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